

Kentucky Arts Council Board Meeting
June 19, 2008
Morehead Recreation Tourism & Convention Center
Morehead, Kentucky

Members Present: Everett McCorvey, Sonya Baker, Wilma Brown, Jean Dorton, Paul Fourshee, Ron Johnson, Ed Lane, Gail Russell, Retha Tarter, Randall Vaughn

Members Absent: Todd Lowe, Zev Buffman, Dean Jones, Kelly Knight, Ann Schell, James Voyles

Others Present: Staff: Lori Meadows, Chris Cathers, Suzanne Gray, Melissa Nesselrode

Guests: Cecelia Wooden, Arts Kentucky; Pam Keibler, Bag44; Jessica Kern, Maysville Community & Technical College; Homer Skeens & Rhonda Bailey, Rowan County Arts Center; Al Lum; Mary Jerde, Bob Willenbrink, June Grice and Joyce Gunnell, Morehead State University

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME: Vice-Chairman Everett McCorvey noted that due to Chairman Todd Lowe being unable to attend he would be conducting the meeting. Everett called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for attending.

Everett opened the meeting by asking Lori to announce the new cabinet's name. Lori informed the board that the Commerce Cabinet will now be known as the 'Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet'; Lori stated that she sees the new name as a positive move towards the arts being a bigger part of the cabinet. Everett agreed.

QUORUM:

With 10 of the 16 members in attendance, Everett declared a quorum to be present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Everett asked the board members to review the board minutes from the March board meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jean Dorton, seconded by Retha Tarter. The motion was passed without objection.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Members were asked to review the abstention list and note if they had any additions or deletions. Lori pointed out to the board that Sonya Baker has the Kentucky Arts Council Performing Arts Directory listed as an abstention, but her inclusion in the directory is not considered a conflict of interest. Everett asked that the American Spiritual Ensemble be added to his abstentions because they are also on the Kentucky Arts Council Performing Arts Directory.

Grants and Awards:

Individual Artist Professional Development Grants

Fellowships-Writers, Composers, Choreographers

Lincoln Product Development Grants

Lincoln Project Grants

Arts Build Communities Grants – Lori informed the board that on the panel recommendation sheet for application #1147 “College” should be “Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College”

Performing Arts on Tour Grants

School-Community-Arts-Parent-Partnership Grants

Folk Arts Apprenticeship Grants

Folk Arts Project Grants

Community Arts Development Grants

Kentucky Arts Partnership Grants

Lori and Dan gave an overview of the first Kentucky Arts Partnership (KAP) panel process for FY2009 applications. Everett asked the board members who chaired the KAP panels how they felt the new process worked compared to the old process. Randall informed the board that the panelists asked many questions about the KASOL process; he did not see a great shift in the scoring from years before when he has chaired. Wilma also chaired one of the KAP panels and agreed with Randall’s comments. Everett feels that all of the work from Lori, Dan and the KAC staff in preparing the organizations has made a smooth transition into the new process. Lori mentioned to the board that a meeting has been scheduled for July 2nd inviting all of the KAP grantees to receive information regarding how funding amounts were determined for FY09.

Ed Lane asked what the total reductions of funds were for this year for the KAP grants. Lori informed him that a reduction of \$150,000 was taken from the KAP funding; it would have been \$250,000 if it were not for the extra \$100,000 the Kentucky Arts Council (KAC) received from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Lori informed the board that due to several organizations receiving a significant reduction in operating support funding this year, the KAC hopes to work with those organizations that received the largest overall reduction in funds to provide them with an Art in Education Partnership grant. The amount of support available to those organizations will depend upon how much end of year funds the KAC has to work with. The partnership grants are non-competitive and do not require board approval.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Retha Tarter and seconded by Randall Vaughn. The motion was approved without objection.

Everett reminded the board that if there had not been a quorum present the grants listed would not have been approved. He reiterated to the board the importance of their attendance at each meeting.

GOVERNANCE PROCESS:

Everett asked Lori to discuss the proposed KAC FY09 budget. Lori informed the board that the KAC has received a significant reduction from the General Assembly, a total of 12%; an additional reduction of 4.5% may happen within the next month. The reductions will affect our general fund by a total of \$600,000.00.

Ed requested that in the future, the past two years of budgets and revenues for the KAC be provided so the board will have a better picture of the budget situation.

A motion to approve the FY09 Budget was made by Jean Dorton and seconded by Randall Vaughn. The motion was approved without objection.

Everett asked Cecelia Wooden of Arts Kentucky to update the board on arts advocacy measures and the proposed National Endowment for the Arts funding increase. Cecelia informed the board that the \$16,000,000 increase has made it through the first step of the approval process; there are several layers to this, and Congressman Chandler has been a wonderful supporter of this increase.

Everett asked the board to discuss their “Advocacy Best Practices” since the last board meeting:

Jean thanked David Cupps for scheduling the upcoming meeting in Frankfort to discuss arts advocacy.

Jean recently visited a public library that had pictures of their senator reading a book on a large poster which hung in the library. Jean would like the Arts Council to look into the possibility of having pictures of legislators taken while watching a play, etc. and having those made into posters and hung.

Retha informed the board that Jean recently visited Madisonville and together they went to see local artists. The artists were very appreciative of the visit and supportive of the KAC board.

Ed recently visited Austin, Texas and their motto is “We’re a weird city”. This motto reflects the support for diversity in the arts in the city. They are working hard to show that Austin is an exciting place for the arts. Ed hopes to see Kentucky’s cities begin to move in that same way. He would like the KAC to look at ways to help support and work in partnership with live venues, help with marketing or sponsoring an exhibit/performance with the city governments. Jean suggested getting the colleges involved as partners, as well. Sonya suggested the KAC put together a “Festival How To” packet to send rather than committing to various partnerships due to the KAC’s current financial situation.

Everett informed the board that *SKY* magazine recently did a piece on the Lexington area. Everett also informed the board that Alltech may possibly sponsor a statewide festival during the FEI Games. Everett would like for KAC to play a large part in the festival.

During the general discussion Ed offered to put together a committee to look at ways for the KAC to become involved in festivals within the state. Ed will give a report at the September board meeting.

Everett requested that in the absence of committee chairman Ann Schell, Lori report on the Governor's Awards in the Arts recommendations sent to the Governor's office for approval. Lori informed the board that a list of the nominees sent to the Governor for approval was located in their handouts. Lori and Everett reiterated that the list is informational only and that the recommendations have not yet been approved by the Governor; therefore, the information should not be shared with the public or the nominees.

Everett announced that Wilma will be the chair of the Poet Laureate committee and Jean will chair the Nominating committee. Everett thanked them in advance for their work.

Lori asked the board to review the proposed policy changes located in their packet, and gave a brief overview of the proposed changes.

A motion to accept the policy changes was made by Ed Lane and seconded by Randall Vaughn. The motion passed without objection.

Everett requested that Lori address specifically the board expense limits to be added to the Board Policies (4.0). Lori informed the board that she has been in contact with legal counsel with the Governor's office and the Finance Cabinet regarding limits for reimbursement of board member expenses while complying with KRS 153.215 (1). The following limits for reimbursement for quarterly board meetings, chairmanship of panel meetings and committee meetings have been approved by state legal counsel: maximum of \$10 for breakfast, \$15 for lunch and \$25 for dinner (alcohol is not reimbursable); for vehicle mileage reimbursement will be at the current rate published by the American Automobile Association. Everett opened the floor for discussion. The consensus of the board was that the amounts were reasonable and fair.

A motion to approve the expense limits for board members to be added to board policy 4.0 was made by Jean Dorton and seconded by Randall Vaughn. The motion passed without objection.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OPERATIONAL UPDATE:

Lori gave updates on the following:

Lincoln Bicentennial Update: There continue to be many activities and events including the dedication ceremony for the Boy Lincoln sculpture which was very successful. Project and Product Development grants are still available and communities across the state are coordinating art events around the Lincoln Bicentennial celebration.

Current agency initiatives and projects include the completion of the agency strategic plan which will be available for approval at the September board meeting; extensive work on planning and assessment; and continued revision of the budget and cost-saving measures because of the current budget reductions. .

The KAC is currently working on planning and assessment for the Long Range Plan and also for the current budget cuts. The KAC is currently looking at how to better use and stretch funding.

Staffing Update: The agency has received approval to hire for the Arts Education Director and the Arts Marketing Director positions which are vacant due to retirements. An additional staff retirement is anticipated by the end of 2008.

REVIEW OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

A review of the following Monitoring Reports was given by Lori Meadows:

2.3 Financial Planning/Budgeting

2.6 Grant Panels Composition

2.7 Grant Panels Process

2.8 Emergency Interim Grants

A motion to approve the monitoring reports was made by Randall Vaughn and seconded by Gail Russell. The motion passed without objection.

DISCUSSION ON ENDS:

Lori gave an overview of the KAC arts education programs which include: the Teacher Initiated Program, the NEA-mandated Poetry Out Loud Program and the Arts in Education Artist Roster. Lori informed the board that due to the current budget cuts the Artist Roster will now only include Kentucky artists to ensure that we are able to provide residencies for as many Kentucky artists as possible. Lori also stated that while the KAC has traditionally hosted an artist professional training workshop for the Arts Education artists twice a year in Jabez, KY, the training will be once a year and will no longer take place in Jabez. The KAC is currently working with the University of Kentucky for the upcoming two-day workshop in July. Ed commented on the need for a Kentucky artist website/database that could be used as connection tool. Artists could then create their own learning workshops collaboratively. The website would be for juried and non-juried participants of the KAC programs.

Ed asked how much funding the agency receives for Arts Education programs. Lori responded that the KAC receives \$75,000.00 from the NEA specifically for arts education, though other state and federal funds are used to supplement that amount. The KAC currently has budgeted \$90,000 for the Teacher Initiated Grant Program, \$20,000 for Poetry Outloud (with in-kind support), and \$15,000 for arts education artist training.

Sonya commented that the KAC needs an arts advocate: someone who can advocate for the arts as a tool for education. There are arts organizations that are doing that, but the KAC needs someone out there doing this across the state. Lori stated that in the next year or two we will probably see many arts related positions cut from the school systems due to budget reductions.

Wilma asked Lori what the KAC is doing to educate young adults/adults beyond the Teacher Initiated Grant Program. Lori responded that several of the other grant programs of the agency address lifelong learning opportunities.

Sonya suggested that the KAC look at the possibility of working with our aging population, including working with the elderly through grants to retirement homes, etc.

Everett requested that the board continue to think about ideas and e-mail them to Lori.

BOARD SCHEDULE:

Upcoming board meetings:

September 19th – Bowling Green, Kentucky with a Community Reception

December 12th – Louisville, Kentucky with a Community Reception

Jean stated that the June 2009 board meeting site was yet to be determined, she would like for the meeting to be held in Owensboro during the Mysteries Festival since Zev invited the KAC to attend this year. The board agreed on Owensboro to be a site considered for the June 2009 meeting.

BOARD MEETING EVALUATION:

At Everett's request, Randall led the board meeting evaluation discussion. The following comments were made:

Retha enjoyed traveling to Morehead for the board meeting. She also welcomed our newly appointed board members and returning member. She enjoyed the discussion and ideas brought before the board.

Sonya thanked the board for the warm welcome to the new board members; she is very pleased to be a part of the board.

Jean stated that Everett did a wonderful job as Chairman for the meeting today.

Randall invited the board to the Governor's School for the Arts activities on Sunday June 22nd in Lexington and thanked those who donated toward the school.

The board congratulated Todd Lowe on his appointment as Chairman of the Southern Arts Federation.

Adjournment